

# THE MILITANT

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 10 MARCH 14, 2016

## Two years after Maidan revolt Ukraine rulers target workers

BY NAOMI CRAINE

It's been two years since sustained popular mobilizations by workers and others, known as the Maidan, in Ukraine toppled the pro-Moscow regime of Victor Yanukovich. Today working people confront deepening attacks on their living conditions and political rights from the capitalist government of billionaire President Petro Poroshenko.

At the same time Poroshenko's government is increasingly fractured, as competing business moguls and their political spokespeople jockey against each other. Kiev also faces pressure from the International Monetary Fund, Washington and imperialist powers in Europe who demand greater "austerity" and "transparency" to advance their ability to make profit off the working people of Ukraine.

Ukrainian workers also face the effects of an ongoing military conflict with Moscow and the Russian gov-

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## US, Moscow broker shaky cease-fire in war-torn Syria

BY MAGGIE TROWE

A shaky "cessation of hostilities" brokered by Washington and Moscow took effect in Syria Feb. 27. The United Nations has slated a new round of talks in Geneva March 7 aimed at reaching a longer-term cease-fire and broader political deal. As things stand, the outcome could produce a situation where Moscow's ally Syrian President Bashar al-Assad would control most urban areas, the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) would control virtually all Kurdish areas, and various opposition forces could hold sway over some smaller areas they control.

The political bloc with Moscow and the "cessation" are the product of President Barack Obama's administration's "all-consuming mission since last summer," when Washington reached its nuclear accord with Tehran, the *New York Times* reported.

Washington aims to stop the civil

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## Socialist Workers Party: Defend right to abortion!

SWP candidates join March 2 protests



Militant/Willie Cotton

Supporters of right to abortion rally outside Supreme Court hearing in Washington March 2.

BY DAN FEIN

CHICAGO — Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy demonstrated with hundreds of other supporters of women's right to choose abortion here March 2. Vice presidential candidate Osborne Hart joined a similar rally in Washington, D.C., the same day, as the Supreme Court heard arguments in a challenge to a Texas law severely restricting access to abortion. Campaign supporters distributed a new statement (see accompanying text)

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The following statement was released March 1 by Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, and Osborne Hart, SWP candidate for vice president.

### Socialist Workers Party campaign statement

We join with those marching March 2 in Washington, Chicago and elsewhere to defend women's right to choose abortion. This fight is in the

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## Steelworkers stood up to ATI lockout, say 'the bosses underestimated us'



Militant/Arlene Rubinstein

Steelworkers rally in Washington, Pennsylvania, Feb. 11 marking six months of lockout by ATI.

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

"Our determination got us this far," United Steelworkers Local 1138 member Terry Stinson, who works at the Allegheny Technologies mill in Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, told the *Militant* Feb. 28. The union and ATI announced a tentative agreement on a four-year contract Feb. 22. Picket lines remained up while union members at ATI's 12 facilities in six states discussed the proposal.

USW officials announced March 1 that members voted 5 to 1 to approve the agreement.

"They thought we would cave in af-

ter a few weeks. They underestimated us," said Stinson.

ATI locked out the 2,200 unionists Aug. 15, bringing in replacement workers from scab-herder Strom Engineering. Six months later workers remain determined in face of the company's drive to cut wages, slash health care, institute 12-hour shifts, cut pensions and contract out more work.

Company President Robert Wetherbee told the media in December the bosses have a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to cut labor costs by im-

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## US gov't plans wider frame-up against Oregon land protesters

BY SETH GALINSKY

U.S. prosecutors in Portland, Oregon, said Feb. 24 they plan to add charges to their frame-up case against Ammon Bundy and 24 others. They're currently accused of "conspiracy to impede" federal officers for joining the 41-day peaceful occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Harney County, Oregon. All 25 say they are not guilty.

Bundy, who is from Idaho, led the Jan. 2 takeover of the refuge to demand U.S. authorities release father and son cattle ranchers Dwight and Steven Hammond, imprisoned twice on the same arson charges, and to combat what many ranchers call "overreach" by the federal government in its control of most of the land in the area.

The Hammonds, whose land federal agents have sought to take over for years, were found guilty for setting two controlled fires on their own Harney County ranch — a common prac-

tice both ranchers and government agencies use to control the spread of invasive plants and prevent destruction from wildfires. The fires spread to small areas of federal land. After

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

New Zealand bus drivers strike  
over hours, working conditions  
California Cartage workers  
rally for better conditions



# Ukraine rulers target workers

**Continued from front page**  
ernment’s occupation of Crimea.  
Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk narrowly survived a no-confidence vote Feb. 16, but two of four parties quit the ruling coalition, leaving the government supported by a minority in parliament.

The governmental crisis was precipitated by the Feb. 3 resignation of Economy Minister Aivaras Abromavicius, who accused one of Poroshenko’s deputies of attempting to impose his cronies in the management of state-owned companies. Ten ambassadors to Ukraine, including from the United States, Germany and other imperialist countries, immediately issued a joint statement lamenting Abromavicius’ departure and praising him for “implementing tough but necessary economic reforms” to help “bring Ukraine into compliance with its IMF program obligations.”

The economy contracted by 10.5 percent last year with inflation above 40 percent, a result not only of the worldwide capitalist crisis, but of the drastic impact on production and trade of the separatist war in the industrial southeast and the Russian seizure of Crimea.

The IMF has demanded Kiev cut pensions and other social spending; increase gas prices; privatize more state-owned companies, throwing tens of thousands of miners out of work; take measures that would supposedly rein in rampant corruption; and raise taxes on alcohol, tobacco and agricultural goods.

In December, the IMF ruled that Ukraine has to repay Moscow for a \$3 billion loan made to Yanukovich’s government shortly before his ouster. Kiev so far refuses to pay.

There have been more skirmishes between Moscow-backed separatists and

pro-government forces in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in recent weeks. Washington and European governments continue to press Kiev to adjust to the current unsettled reality. Washington sees recognizing Moscow’s efforts to protect its interests in what rulers there call their “near abroad” as a key part of deepening collaboration in imposing a semblance of stability in Syria.

### Workers pay for bosses’ crisis

It’s becoming clear to more and more working people in Ukraine that the biggest obstacle they face in achieving any of the goals they fought for on the Maidan is the government in Kiev.

“While we watch Russia, we also watch the politicians of the new government,” Sasha Antoliavych, a former miner from the Donetsk region, told *Militant* correspondents on the Maidan in March 2014. “Most of them are not much different from those who fled.”

With no working-class party to lead a fight for power, this has proven accurate. In the last two years the bosses and government have sought to stabilize the crisis-ridden economy on workers’ backs.

Time and time again capitalists and government ministries in charge of state-owned mines and factories stop paying wages, sparking numerous strikes and labor protests. Coal miners in the west carried out a series of work stoppages in January, including blockading roads near the border with Poland. Workers at the huge rocket factory in the eastern city of Dnepropetrovsk rallied Feb. 11, also in protest of unpaid wages.

In retaliation, union members have faced physical assault. Mikhaïlo Volynets, president of the Independent Miners Union of Ukraine, accused represen-

## Mine blast in Russia highlights unsafe conditions



Sputnik via AP/Vladimir Yurlov

Relatives of miners gather in Vorkuta, Russia, Feb. 28, where 36 workers died at the Severnaya coal mine in the country’s deadliest mine disaster since 2010. Four were killed and 26 trapped Feb. 25 by two methane explosions. Six rescue workers died in a third blast Feb. 28. Authorities said the remaining miners, trapped in an area where a large fire continues to rage, are presumed dead.

Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich declared Feb. 29 that “an abrupt outburst” of methane made the disaster “almost impossible to prevent.”

But miners’ relatives dispute this story. Since February, “the guys were telling me there was a lot of gas,” Mikhail Momot, who had worked in the mine, told Agence France-Presse. The bosses say “if you don’t want to work you can quit. But where could I go?” His brother Konstantin died in the disaster.

Darya Tryasukho told Dojd TV that her father, also killed in the blast, said mine managers had ordered workers to disable methane detectors.

Alexander Sergeyev, head of the Independent Trade Union of Russian Miners, accused the company of skimping on safety measures to save money.

The Arctic city of Vorkuta and its coal mines were part of the Stalinist gulag. Hundreds of thousands of political prisoners were worked to death there from 1931-57. It was the site of a mass hunger strike in 1936 and prison labor strike in 1953. The mine was privatized after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

— NAOMI CRAINE

tatives of Energy and Mining Minister Volodymyr Demchyshyn of beating union leader Anatoliy Mukhamedzhinov at the Novovolynsk mine in the company office Feb. 3.

Coal miners in the separatist-controlled Donetsk region have also held work stoppages over mounting unpaid wages. A Jan. 13 strike at the Makiyivka mine won some back pay, but 132 workers were fired, Halya Coynash of the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group reported Feb. 1. Now officials of the so-called Donetsk People’s Republic are threatening to charge miners there with “treason” for their strike.

The Poroshenko government has gone after democratic rights, including

imposing thought-control “decommunization” laws. On Jan. 25 the Supreme Administrative Court upheld a ban on all activity by the Communist Party of Ukraine under those provisions, dealing a blow to the rights of all workers.

Meanwhile, the Russian government, which occupied and annexed the Crimean Peninsula two years ago, has stepped up attacks on native Tatar people. Moscow has begun proceedings to ban the Crimean Tatar council, the Mejlis, under a Russian law against “extremism.”

Leaders of the Mejlis have been imprisoned or banned from entering Crimea. The Mejlis offices in Kherson, Ukraine, near Crimea, were attacked with an explosive device Feb. 7.

## THE MILITANT

### Defend women’s right to choose abortion!

*From Latin America to Ireland and across the U.S., the fight for the right to safe, legal abortion is a fundamental part of the struggle for women’s equality. The ‘Militant’ covers these battles and explains why they are important for the working class worldwide.*



Rally counters anti-abortion demonstration at clinic in McAllen, Texas, Jan. 30.

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# Capitalist crisis, refugee surge strain fabric of ‘united Europe’

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The myth of a “united Europe” is coming apart at an accelerated pace. The massive influx of refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and elsewhere is exacerbating existing conflicts in the European Union, a political and trade alliance of 28 countries dominated by German imperialism.

The passport-free Schengen area is already effectively suspended as a growing number of national governments have instituted border controls. New regional alliances are taking steps to seal their borders, defying and undermining German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s attempts to cobble together a Europe-wide solution.

“Every EU member state is currently withdrawing to its own position and is taking its own national measures,” Austrian Defense Minister Hans Peter Doskozil, a Social Democrat, put it recently.

Contradictions within the EU — marked from birth by competition between the national capitalist classes involved and the uneven levels of productivity and development among them — have sharpened over years of declining production and trade worldwide. These trends underlie the growing support throughout Europe for parties opposing the EU in favor of nationalist political platforms, including in the United Kingdom. A referendum on “Brexit,” whether to leave or stay in the EU, is scheduled there for June 23.

The Austrian government convened a meeting Feb. 24 with officials from nine Balkan states, including six non-EU members, to discuss how to further restrict refugees traveling north from Greece. Athens and Berlin were not invited. The group agreed to send more police to help Macedonia beef up its border with Greece. The governments of Austria and Macedonia have already set caps on migrants entering their countries, leaving thousands stranded in Greece.

Athens recalled its ambassador to Austria Feb. 25 and turned down a request by the Austrian interior minister to visit. “We will not tolerate being a warehouse of souls,” said Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.

## Growing crisis in Greece

More than 100,000 people have arrived in Greece in the first two months of this year, even before warmer weather sets in. Shelters are filled to capacity and

thousands of asylum seekers sleep in parks and along highways. The government has opened up military facilities, established five more temporary camps in northern Greece and even rented ferry boats to house refugees.

This only worsens the economic crisis in Greece, where working people have been battered by years of high unemployment, slashed wages and pensions, and massive cutbacks in health care and other social needs. The stronger imperialist rulers, in Berlin and through the International Monetary Fund, are demanding Athens impose more severe assaults on the working class as a condition for new loans to avoid bankruptcy and a possible exit from the euro currency this summer.

IMF officials say Athens should cut its budget by 4-5 percent of its gross domestic product over the next three years, most of it from pensions, because other public spending has been “cut to the bone” and taxes are already “stiflingly” high. Athens has offered cuts worth about 1 percent of the GDP this year.

Another summit between officials of the EU and Turkey is set for March 7. Since October German Chancellor Merkel has negotiated with the Turkish government six times in hopes of reaching a deal to control the flow of migrants departing the Turkish coast and to set up a quota system to settle refugees across Europe. Among Merkel’s concerns is that Athens might turn to Moscow for assistance in face of the refugee and debt crises. This would give Russian President Vladimir Putin an opportunity to drive further wedges between EU governments.

There are some 2.5 million refugees in Turkey, with tens of thousands of new arrivals fleeing Moscow’s bombing campaign of Aleppo in Syria. “We can open the doors to Greece and Bulgaria anytime and we can put the refugees on buses,” Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told the European Commission in November. He is using the refugees as a bargaining chip, including in Ankara’s effort to stop any advances for the Kurdish national struggle, and is looking to a deal that will resettle Kurdish refugees from Syria in EU countries.

# US gov’t widens frame-up of Oregon land protesters

Continued from front page

serving out their sentence, the Hammonds were sent back to prison Jan. 4 when an appeals court ruled that under the Bill Clinton-era Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act they should serve more time.

Only four of Bundy’s co-defendants have been released on bail. Ten others appeared in court Feb. 24, where federal Judge Anna Brown told them the law presumes them to be innocent unless they are proven guilty.

“It’s difficult to understand the presumption of innocence when I’ve spent the last month in a jail cell and been led around in chains wherever I go,” defendant Ryan Payne told the judge.

Sandy Anderson was released on bail Feb. 19. She was told she isn’t allowed to write, phone, email or have any physical contact with any of her co-defendants, including her husband Sean.

## Utah rally protests cop shooting of Abdi Mohamed



Salt Lake Tribune/Lennie Mahler

SALT LAKE CITY — Protests erupted here Feb. 27 after police shot and critically wounded 17-year-old Abdi Mohamed, a refugee from Kenya who moved to Utah with his family 11 years ago.

Some 500 people marched and rallied Feb. 29 in an action called by Utah Against Police Brutality. Among those addressing the crowd was Selam Mohammad, above with microphone, a 19-year-old friend of Abdi who was with him when he was shot. Mohammad is standing next to Muslima Waladi, Abdi’s cousin. The youth remains in critical condition.

Abdi had picked up part of a broomstick to try and stop an altercation moments before police arrived, Mohammad told reporters. “They told him to put it down, once,” he said, and “started shooting him as soon as he turned around. He wasn’t even swinging at anybody. He didn’t know the cops were behind him. He just dropped.”

Authorities have refused to identify the cops who shot the youth or release their body camera footage.

After the shooting area residents took to the streets. They were met by some 100 cops, dozens decked in riot gear, who fired pepper spray and Tasers at the crowd.

— CHRIS HORNER AND BRIAN WILLIAMS

Merkel’s plan for refugee quotas within the EU has gone nowhere. The Hungarian government has campaigned intensely against it and won support from the governments of the Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia. “The quotas would redefine Europe’s cultural, ethnic and religious image,” Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban told a press conference Feb. 24.

The German chancellor’s “open border” policy also faces growing opposition at home. The Alternative for Germany, a party opposing the EU and favoring border controls, is doing well in polls ahead of March 13 elections in three German states.

## Attacks on freedom of speech

Amid this increased turmoil, many

governments in Europe have taken measures that limit freedom of speech, often in the name of fighting terrorism. Last year the Spanish government expanded a decade-old law against “glorifying terrorism.” Among the latest people to be prosecuted are two puppeteers who put on a satirical show suggesting such laws are being used for witch hunts. Madrid also implemented the Citizens’ Security Law, known as the “gag law,” restricting unauthorized public demonstrations.

Authorities in Denmark have stepped up use of both “glorification of terrorism” and “hate speech” laws to limit freedom of expression.

And the UK Counter-Terrorism and Security Act of 2015 gives the government broad powers to control speech on university campuses.

“While the conditions are humiliating and add insult to injury, they are not unusual,” Michael Arnold, Ammon Bundy’s attorney, told the *Militant* Feb. 26 from Eugene, Oregon.

Arnold said he plans to renew his request for Bundy to be released. Bundy never threatened to harm anyone, Arnold said, he just exercised his constitutionally protected right to speak out about issues of concern to ranchers and others in the West. “We’re putting together many of his words from the Internet to present to the judge when we make the new motion,” he said. “His words speak for themselves.”

Two days after his arrest, Bundy said from jail that while many of those at the refuge had guns with them during the occupation, they “never once pointed them at another individual or had any desire to do so.” He says that their occupation of the refuge was civil disobedience to promote the idea

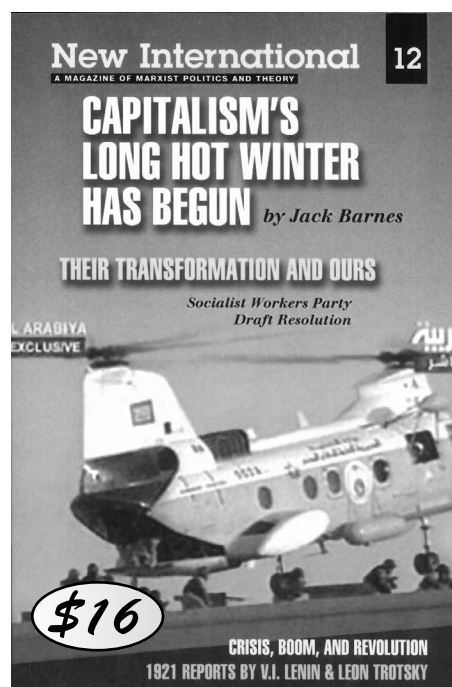
that the “land belongs to the people.”

At the Feb. 24 hearing federal prosecutors asked the court to designate the cases as “complex.” This would allow prosecutors to drag out proceedings, tossing aside the defendants’ right to a speedy trial. The prosecution proposes a trial date sometime in 2017.

Bundy and several of the accused were arrested Jan. 26 when the FBI and Oregon state police ambushed them as they were driving to speak at a community meeting in John Day, Oregon. Another leader of the occupation, Robert “LaVoy” Finicum, was ambushed and killed by the police.

The FBI says the killing of Finicum is still under investigation.

While area residents had different opinions about whether the occupation was a good idea, most ranchers and working people agree the Hammonds should go free and many say the killing of Finicum was murder.



\$16



# Fight against frame-up of rail workers wins support

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — “Who Is to Blame for the Runaway Train Which Killed 47 in Fireball Horror?” reads a headline in the Feb. 21 issue of United Kingdom tabloid *Daily Star*, describing the July 6, 2013, derailment and explosion of a 72-car crude oil train in downtown Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. Author Chris Summers interviews Thomas Walsh, attorney for train engineer Tom Harding, and explains the ongoing fight against the frame-up campaign by the Quebec crown prosecutor and rail bosses to scapegoat and imprison Harding and train controller Richard Labrie for the disaster.

If convicted, the two United Steelworkers members could face life in prison, as could former Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway train operations manager Jean Demaitre.

As he had done many times, Summers recounts, Harding — the sole crew member under a special government dispensation to protect rail bosses’ profits — parked the train that night in Nantes, up the hill from Lac-Mégantic, and went to town to sleep.

Due to faulty company maintenance, a fire broke out on the engine.

The railroad called Harding “about the fire in the train and he said ‘should I go down there?’ They told him no,” Walsh said. “What more could he have done?”

When firefighters put the fire out, they turned the locomotive off, inadvertently allowing the air brakes to bleed out. A company representative untrained on locomotives signed off on the train and they all left. The hand brakes Harding set couldn’t hold the train by themselves, and it rolled down the hill, derailed and exploded.

“Thomas Harding is a guy who is the salt-of-the-earth,” Walsh told the *Daily Star*. “He comes from a railway town and his father and his uncle both worked on the railways. He has been doing that run for time immemorial. He is not a slacker. But you have got a guy and you wear him down. He has got s\*\*\*y equipment and s\*\*\*y conditions and every time anyone threatens to complain they threaten to lay them off.”

Summers reported that a few days after the disaster Montreal, Maine and Atlantic boss Edward Burkhardt visited Lac-Mégantic trying to put the blame on Harding, questioning whether he set enough hand brakes.



Militant/John Studer

Helping marshal Oct. 11 rail safety march in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, Jacques Breton, right, union leader and mayor of nearby Nantes, backs fight against frame-up of rail workers.

Harding is being made a “scapegoat” for the railroad and faces a “show trial,” Walsh said.

Walsh will be speaking at the March 31-April 1 convention of Rail Workers United in Chicago a few days before their next hearing in Lac-Mégantic April 4.

“If you care about railroad safety you must defend Tom Harding,” says the front-page commentary in the latest edition of *Highball*, the RWU’s paper.

“I am not asking for a change of venue. I am insisting [the trial] takes

place in Lac-Mégantic because they have lived through this,” Walsh told the *Star*. “They have the best moral claim to be the jury. It’s their family and friends who were lost.”

“It’s not the workers who caused this,” Jacques Breton, who works at the Bestar furniture plant in Lac-Mégantic, told the *Militant* Jan. 27. He is president of Unifor Local 299 and mayor of Nantes.

Many in the area view Harding as a hero. After the explosion he helped area workers uncouple and move tank cars full of crude oil away from the burning fire to prevent further destruction.

Send solidarity messages for the Tom Harding and Richard Labrie defense to their union, USW 1976 / Section locale 1976, 2360 De Lasalle, Suite 202, Montreal, QC H1V 2L1. Email: info@1976usw.ca; copies to: Thomas Walsh, 165 Rue Wellington N. Suite 310, Sherbrooke, QC Canada J1H 5B9. Email: thomaspwalsh@hotmail.com

In Canada, send contributions to help the legal defense to Syndicat des Métallistes, 565, boulevard Crémazie Est, bureau 5100, Montreal, QC H2M 2V8. In the U.S. send checks to Tom Harding Defense Fund, First Niagara Bank, 25 McClellan Drive, Nassau, NY 12123.

## Steelworkers stood up to lockout at ATI

Continued from front page

posing a lower tier for new hires, as up to a third of the workers approach retirement.

The Steelworkers have maintained 24-hour picketing and mounted expanded pickets and rallies with other workers, both union and nonunion. Through these actions and regular social events locked-out workers, family members

and supporters have gotten to know each other and gained experience. No union member crossed the picket line.

“Many of us are not the same people we were when this started, and that’s a good thing,” Beth Cribbs, a member of USW Local 1196 in Brackenridge, Pennsylvania, said Feb. 26. “We have a different relation to one another, to the union, to the hall. Attitudes about how the company treats us have changed. After all, we’re just wage slaves.”

The locked-out workers have extended solidarity to others. Four members of her local joined a rally at the University of Pittsburgh on Feb. 26, said Cribbs, in

support of an organizing drive by faculty and graduate employees there and for the fight for \$15 an hour and a union.

“They need to make sure that the folks at Midland and Bagdad continue to have jobs,” said Stinson, referring to 600 workers at two mills ATI announced it will close. “As long as they take care of them, I think that is a big step.”

“The company tried to wear down our families. They cut health care in November. In February unemployment benefits ended. However the vote goes, we’re already preparing for the next fight,” said Regina Stinson, an activist in the Wives of Steel union auxiliary.

## Anti-labor outfit targets ATI workers and their union

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The 2,200 members of the United Steelworkers union locked out last August by Allegheny Technologies Inc. have had to face more than attacks from the company.

As the fight has worn on, a notorious anti-labor outfit calling itself the Socialist Equality Party has persistently shown up, appealing for workers to turn against the union, weakening their fight against the steel bosses.

The Michigan-based group and its World Socialist Web Site tells workers they should quit the USW, saying the union is the same as the company. Their latest pitch, “USW Agrees to Sellout Deal to End ATI Lockout,” says the Steelworkers union “deliberately isolated the embattled ATI workers.”

The Socialist Equality Party isn’t active in the unions and doesn’t build solidarity. It’s not part of the movement for \$15 and a union or other organizing efforts. It tells workers the unions — which it calls “auxiliary arms of corporate management” — are part of a conspiracy with the employers and urges us to quit them.

As hard-fought battles drag on, they seek the ear of workers who get frustrated or demoralized. Their demands for us to walk away from our unions are a deadly threat to workers seeking to strengthen the labor movement to fight more effectively.

This anti-union outfit has a long history of disruption aimed at workers engaged in often bitter battles and at revolutionary working-class organizations like the Socialist Workers Party.

When Cooper Tire bosses in Findlay, Ohio, locked out Steelworkers for three months in 2011-12, the World Socialist Web Site published the so-called Cooper Tire Worker Newsletter, whose diatribes against the union were quoted by tire bosses’ publications.

In recent years this group slandered unions in battles at Caterpillar in Illinois; Con Edison in New York; and American Crystal Sugar in North Dakota and Minnesota. In 2015 they targeted Steelworkers on strike at oil refineries.

It is through hard-fought struggles that existing unions will be transformed into fighting instruments and a

stronger, revolutionary-minded leadership will emerge. A good example of this is found in the four-book series on the 1930s Midwest Teamsters organizing drives written by Farrell Dobbs, the central leader of that fight and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

Communist dockworkers and drivers — members of the Socialist Workers Party and its predecessor organizations — helped lead an organizing drive that expanded the Teamsters union in Minneapolis and transformed it into a militant industrial union. Through a series of hard-fought battles against the bosses and their cops and goons, the Teamsters union grew and turned Minneapolis into a union town. A growing confident rank-and-file leadership emerged, capable of organizing an 11-state over-the-road campaign in the Midwest.

They helped publish the *Northwest Organizer*, the paper of the area labor movement, that pointed to the need for workers to mount independent working-class political action as well as building support for battles on the picket line.

### — CALENDAR —

#### CALIFORNIA

##### Richmond

**Has U.S. Policy Towards Cuba Really Changed?** Join a discussion with Miguel Fraga, First Secretary of Cuban Embassy in Washington D.C., Fri., March 11, 7 p.m. Community Room, Public Library, 325 Civic Center Plaza. Tel.: (510) 219-0092. Sponsors: International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity, Richmond; CA Regla; Cuba Friendship Committee; and Marin Task Force on the Americas.

### — MILITANT LABOR FORUMS —

#### CANADA

##### Montreal

**Faced with the Capitalist Economic Crisis Working People in Canada and Worldwide Need to Take Political Action Independent of the Boss Parties.** Speakers: Michel Prairie, Communist League. Fri., March 11. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Dinner, \$10; program, \$5. 7107 St. Denis, Suite 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

##### Manchester

**Why Attacks on Free Speech Are of Concern for Working People.** Speaker: Andrés Mendoza, Communist League. Sat., March 12, 6:30 p.m. Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St. Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.



# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

## Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles across the country!

This column gives a voice to those engaged in battle and building solidarity today — including workers fighting for \$15 and a union; Steelworkers and Verizon workers opposing concessions; construction workers demanding safe conditions. I invite those involved in workers' battles to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

— Maggie Trowe

### New Zealand bus drivers strike over hours, working conditions

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Some 1,100 drivers, members of the Tramways and FIRST unions, picketed at depots across the city during a 24-hour strike against two Auckland bus companies Feb. 19, shutting down 70 percent of bus service.

The 1,000 drivers at NZ Bus and 89 at Howick and Eastern Buses were protesting poor working conditions, low pay and stalled contract negotiations. Howick and Eastern bosses want to end time-and-a-half pay for overtime.

Drivers from a number of NZ Bus depots walked the Howick and Eastern picket line during the strike.

At the Onehunga depot pickets carried placards saying, "NZ Bus you're killing us" and "No family life causes strife," expressing anger at long hours, lack of bathroom breaks and more split shifts. Some drivers are away from home for 15 hours with a four-hour unpaid break in the middle of the day, Tramways Union President Gary Froggatt told Radio New Zealand Feb. 19.

"We get very tired," said a woman driver on the picket line, who asked that her name not be used. "Sometimes we only have a couple of minutes between trips, and that's not enough to get to the bathroom."

The company has offered a pay increase of 1.7 percent, which would raise wages to \$20.75 (US\$13.80) per hour.

NZ Bus is threatening layoffs after losing a contract for south Auckland routes.

The walkout follows two months of actions, including striking twice to hold union meetings and 10 days of "working to rule" — taking a 10-minute break at the end of each run, using a bathroom if needed and refusing to work for five hours without a meal break.

Driver Toby Peeni, who has worked for Howick and Eastern for four years, decided to become a union member last year. "The only way to get a better contract is to join the union and fight," he told the *Militant*.

— Felicity Coggan

### Unionists in Montreal's Old Port tourist area demand \$15 an hour

MONTREAL — Unionized workers at the Vieux-Port (Old Port) historical tourist attraction here demonstrated at an open air skating rink on a busy afternoon Feb. 18 demanding \$15 an hour (US\$11), paid vacation and sick leave, and more pay for night and weekend shifts.

Public Service Alliance of Canada Local 10333, which represents 350 Vieux-Port workers whose jobs include maintenance, ticketing and security at the federally owned site, is in contract negotiations with port management. Nearly half the workers earn less than \$15 and the majority work part-time, Pierre Veilleux, one of the organizers of the action, told the *Militant*. The

minimum wage in Quebec is \$10.55 (US\$7.80).

Vieux-Port bosses want to reduce their contribution to the pension plan by half. Bosses have stepped up hiring nonunion subcontracted workers, often paying them more than union members.

Workers at the action wore "\$15 an hour" T-shirts and unfurled a banner that read, "United in solidarity during negotiations." Later they took the banner to the nearby Science Centre, where a benefit for the profit-making federal government business was underway, and leafleted passersby about their contract demands.

— Michel Prairie and Marie-Claire David

### Sweden: Cabin crew, pilots win union representation, contract

STOCKHOLM — After a two-day strike, pilots and cabin workers here won union representation and a contract. The workers are employed by



Militant/Terry Coggan

Bus drivers picket NZ Bus depot in Auckland, New Zealand, Feb. 19 during 24-hour strike by 1,100 Tramways and FIRST unions' members against split shifts, low pay and poor conditions.

temp agency Global Employer Company, which hires pilots and cabin crew for the United Kingdom-based carrier Flybe, a subcontractor since last year for some short runs of Scandinavian Airlines System.

Negotiations between Global Employer and the Unionen, which represents 30 cabin workers, started in December. When the company refused to sign a contract with conditions equivalent to the rest of the industry, the workers walked out Feb. 22. Flights were cancelled affecting more than 1,000 passengers.

Members of the Airline Pilots Association employed by the temp agency refused overtime starting Feb. 17. A

week later ALPA announced that pilots would strike Thursdays, Sundays and Mondays until the company agreed to sign a contract, and that 900 pilots working for other regional carriers would refuse overtime.

The contract signed between Global Employer and Unionen gives cabin crew members a wage increase of \$220 to \$2,200 a month before taxes, prohibits split shifts, and sets the workweek at five days on with two consecutive days off.

The Pilots Association and the company reached an agreement Feb. 26, giving members at Global Employer the same contract as other regional carriers.

— Lars Erlandsson

## California Cartage workers rally for better conditions

BY BERNIE SENTER

LOS ANGELES — Two days after submitting a petition to management signed by 260 employees at California Cartage Co., 40 workers joined a rally outside the warehouse facility at the Port of Los Angeles Feb. 24. The action was organized by the Warehouse Worker Resource Center.

The petition titled, "Respect and transparency for all warehouse workers!" demanded the company and staffing agency it uses assign work schedules based on seniority, not favoritism, end penalizing workers for using sick days, provide workers with steel-toed shoes, and end retaliation and intimidation against workers "for pushing for improvements on the job."

"We're beginning to accomplish

things," warehouse worker Steve Hatch told the *Militant*. "The company is making improvements in their buildings and break areas. We've established the right to take heat breaks when temperatures in the trailers get too high." The company in January agreed to provide safety boots.

Some workers were angry about "the company's revolving-door policy," as Hatch put it. John White, who has worked there for over a year, said California Cartage "steadily hires new people every day while telling employees there's no work."

Charles Grose grabbed a leaflet on his way into work. Asked what he thought of the organizing drive, he said, "I'm down with it. I'll talk with others and stand up and fight for our

rights."

Arthur Angerer, 20, who has worked at California Cartage for seven months, was passing out leaflets to those going to and from work. When workers at the rally learned that Angerer hasn't been called to work all week, they organized to meet outside the staffing agency the next morning to demand he be given work, which he was. A similar effort in November won Maurice Williams' job back.

Last October Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa joined a picket line at California Cartage and announced a partnership with the Warehouse Worker Resource Center. "Hoffa came here and dressed down the company," Hatch said. "To have that kind of support from a major union is invaluable."

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



March 15, 1991

Washington has now entered the fifth stage of its war drive against the Iraqi people. The goal of U.S. imperialism remains what it has been since early August: the establishment of a protectorate in Bagdad that can defend imperialist interests in the region.

The war drive is not over. It continues with bipartisan support in Washington.

For the U.S. rulers this final stage is the most difficult one in their seven-month assault. Through it they seek to inflict greater blows on the Iraqi people, the Palestinian people, and other oppressed peoples in the Mideast. But the imperialists will break their teeth in the attempt to achieve their goals.



March 14, 1966

The attack by a right-wing mob and police on the Brooklyn, N.Y. chapter of the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs and the dynamiting of the organization's national headquarters in San Francisco, Calif. came hard on the heels of a March 4 announcement by Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach that he was petitioning the Subversive Activities Control Board to order the DuBois Clubs to register as a "Communist front."

The attack on the Brooklyn DuBois Clubs came at the end of a press conference called for Saturday, March 5 by the organization to protest Katzenbach's action. Far from stopping the right-wing gang, the police aided them.



March 15, 1941

Death last Saturday released James B. McNamara, world's oldest class war prisoner in point of time served, from his 30 year prison hell in the California penitentiaries.

McNamara was sentenced to life imprisonment on December 5, 1911 by a California boss court for the alleged bombing of the Los Angeles *Times* building on October 1, 1910.

McNamara was an organizer for the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers at the time of his arrest. His activity and that of his union on behalf of West Coast labor had aroused the wrath of the open-shop interests.



# SWP candidate Eleanor García joins warehouse workers' fight

BY BILL ARTH

LOS ANGELES — The Socialist Workers Party launched the campaign for Eleanor García for U.S. Senate at a Feb. 20 forum here attended by more than 100 people.

“We will go to struggles big or small, whether labor battles to organize or win a contract, fights to beat back attempts by the bosses to make workers pay for their crisis, actions by women demanding abortion rights, and protests against the killing of cattle rancher Robert Finicum by Oregon State police and the FBI,” said García, an aerospace worker.

“These fights are schools for workers to learn. They open up new perspectives. What marks our campaigns is that they are campaigns of action. These are our battles.”

Participants enthusiastically contributed well over the \$3,480 needed to put García’s name on the ballot for the June 7 “open primary,” for which she filed on Feb. 26. SWP supporters across the state are now organizing to complete the ballot effort by filing nomination petitions signed by 100 registered voters by March 11.

California has so-called voter nominated primaries, in which the top two vote getters in June are placed on the ballot for the November election, regardless of party affiliation. This will be the first time in many years that an SWP candidate for statewide office is on the California ballot.

García joined California Cartage workers Feb. 24 picketing outside the warehouse at the Port of Los Angeles. The action was organized by the Warehouse Workers Resource Center. “We urge people to fight alongside you,” she said. “Workers the world over face the same conditions. Through fights like these we can gain experience and confidence. It changes us. We become capable of controlling

production and our conditions.”

García campaigned in solidarity with Farmer John meatpackers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770, after their union meeting Feb. 28 where they discussed ongoing contract negotiations. “The managers harass us, they’re always on top of us. They want us working all the time. They don’t want to give us raises,” Marta Menendez told her.

“We have been living and working under depression-like conditions for 10 years. Because the bosses aren’t making the profits they want, they try to squeeze more out of us,” García responded. “So they speed up the lines, push us harder. We have to join together, fight together and extend solidarity with others in battle.”



Militant/Bernie Senter  
Eleanor García, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, marches with California Cartage warehouse workers fighting for better job conditions at Port of Los Angeles Feb. 24.

## Kennedy, Hart march for women’s right to abortion

Continued from front page

calling for a nationwide campaign of public action in defense of women’s right to choose abortion, explaining why this is a fight for the labor movement.

The protests came one day after primary elections in a dozen states where Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump consolidated leads for their parties’ nomination.

Along with liberal hysteria about his “fascist” views, Trump’s advances have provoked a sharp debate within the Republican Party. Sen. Ben Sasse, a Republican from Nebraska, issued an open letter saying that if Trump becomes the nominee “conservatives will need to find a third option.”

Others have decided it’s better to join him. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie endorsed Trump Feb. 26 and stood at his side at a March 1 press conference after his “Super Tuesday” victories.

Trump’s statement to the press showed where some of his appeal lies. He focused on employment, attacked the Barack Obama administration for losing “millions and millions of jobs” and promised to bring manufacturing work back in the U.S. Clinton talks about wages and jobs, he said, but she’s been part of the Obama administration and in government for a long time. “She’s not going to straighten it out in the next four years.”

He also praised Planned Parenthood, saying the group had done “very good work for millions of women.”

The Socialist Workers Party candidates told marchers working people need to break from all of the capitalist parties and politicians. The SWP urges workers to join in fights that strengthen the working class worldwide.

Kennedy joined dozens of supporters of the fight to free Oscar López Feb. 27, holding banners and waving Puerto Rican flags at Logan Square, near one of Chicago’s large Puerto Rican communities.

Organized by 34 Women for Oscar, participants chanted “Women, women, women for Oscar! We must free our jailed compatriot!” López has been imprisoned in the U.S. for more than 34 years, much of it in solitary confinement, for his actions in support of independence for Puerto Rico. He was arrested in 1981 and framed up on “seditious conspiracy” charges.

“The SWP campaign is about the struggles of working people and actions like this,” Kennedy told participants in the action. “To step up the fight to free Oscar López, we can build on victories — winning release of the Cuban Five from U.S. prisons in December 2014 and their triumphant return to Cuba, and winning freedom for Albert Woodfox, a member of the Black Panther Party imprisoned in the notorious Angola prison in Louisiana for 43 years. I’ll be spreading the word and building the June 20 international actions demanding Oscar’s release.”

Kennedy and a team of supporters took the Socialist Workers Party campaign to workers and young people who turned out to hear Democratic Party presidential candidate Bernie Sanders at Chicago State University Feb. 24.

Sanders blamed “rigged capitalism” for the economic crisis millions face today. “The problem working people face isn’t ‘rigged capitalism’ or ‘crony capitalists,’” Kennedy told people after the program. “This is the way capitalism works. The worldwide economic depression we are living through today is what happens when the bosses’ profit margins shrink. They stop putting money in plants and production, and the economy contracts. They zero in and attack our jobs, wages, working conditions and social and political rights.

“None of the capitalist politicians have any proposals to change this reality,” she said. “Sanders’ talk about higher taxes on the 1 percent won’t make a dent.

“Our class, the working class, has to organize ourselves independent of the bosses’ parties,” Kennedy said. “Our unions have to fight for a massive public works program to provide jobs and build things workers need, from infrastructure to schools to medical and child care centers. And, as we fight we change, we become different people, capable of forging a revolutionary movement to take political power and build a new society.”

“It’s the grinding depression conditions workers face that fuel Sanders’ campaign, as well as that of Donald Trump on the Republican side,” she said.

“The Cuban Revolution is the best example of what we can accomplish when we organize and fight,” Kennedy said. “Working people in Cuba, led by Fidel Castro’s July 26 Movement, defeated the Washington-backed Batista dictatorship, made a revolution and took control of their destiny. The have fought and defended that revolution for 57 years and continue to do so today.”

At the rally 27 people got copies of the *Militant* and one bought a subscription to read more about the Socialist Workers Party’s activities and campaign.



Militant/Salm Kolis  
Alyson Kennedy, center, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, joins rally in Chicago Feb. 27 demanding freedom for Oscar López, Puerto Rican independence fighter jailed for 34 years on frame-up charges. Group 34 Women for Oscar organized protest.

### Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

A Necessary Debate

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

Waters explains why revolutionary struggles by working people are inevitable, initiated not by the toilers, but forced upon us by the employing class’s crisis-driven assaults on our living standards and job conditions — on our very humanity. \$7

### The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

BY JACK BARNES

Building the kind of party working people need to prepare for coming class battles through which they will revolutionize themselves, their unions, and all of society. \$24

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# Class struggle in US and the Cuban Revolution today are focus of new books on the Cuban Five

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL  
AND JACOB PERASSO

HAVANA — The experiences of five Cuban revolutionaries who spent a decade and a half in U.S. prisons were featured at several well-attended presentations at this year's Havana International Book Fair, held Feb. 11 to 21. Each of the Five — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González — spoke at one or another of these events.

One of these meetings, attended by 150 people, launched three books by and about the Cuban Five, as they are known worldwide. These books, Labañino said, are about “the class struggle in the United States as well as what the Cuban Revolution represents today.”

The titles included Cuban editions of Guerrero's paintings *I will die the way*

## NEW BOOKS PRESENTED AT HAVANA BOOK FAIR

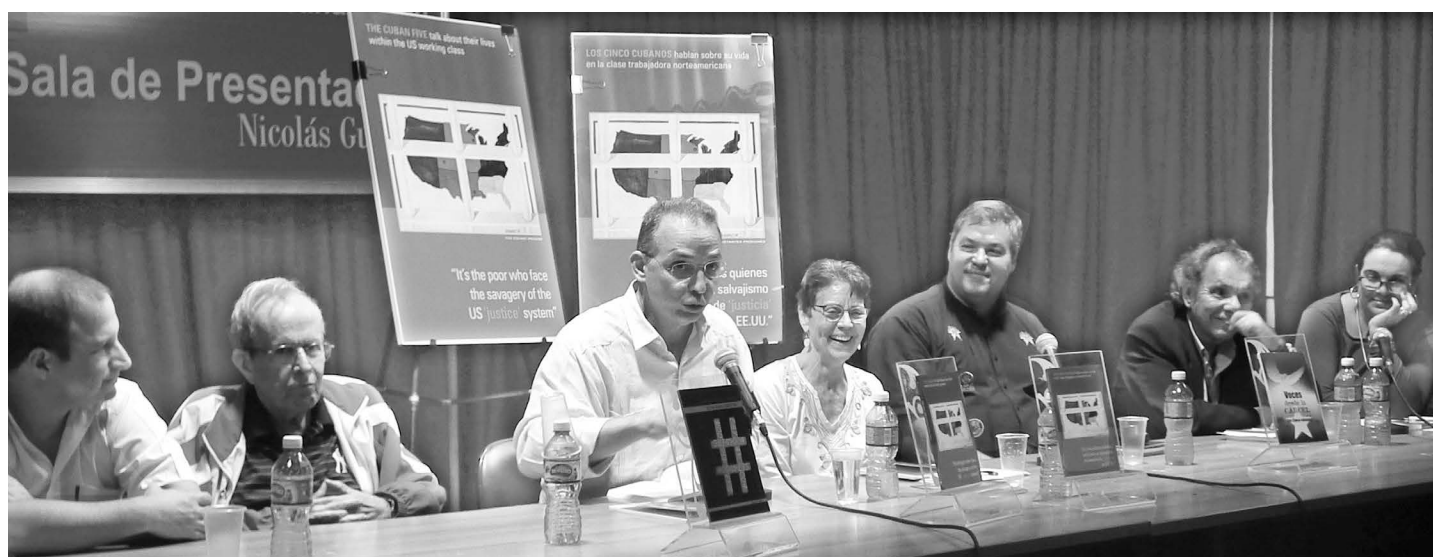
*I've lived*, by Editorial José Martí, and *Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five*, under the Ciencias Sociales imprint of the Nuevo Milenio publishing house. Both were originally published in the United States by Pathfinder Press. The third book was Pathfinder's newest title, *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class*.

All of the Five Heroes, as they are known here, participated in the Feb. 18 launching, along with a number of their family members. Two of the Five, Labañino and Guerrero, spoke at the event.

Also in attendance were the directors of Ciencias Sociales and José Martí publishing houses and a delegation from the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), which played a central role in the international campaign that won the release of the Cuban Five. The meeting was chaired by Sandra Ramírez, director of ICAP's North America Department.

Ramírez introduced Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder and editor of the Pathfinder editions of all three books. Waters is a member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States.

Ramírez said she had first met Waters



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

These three books should be read by young people in Cuba and beyond for their message, said Antonio Guerrero, speaking, one of Cuban Five. From left: José Maury, Union of Young Communists; Ricardo Alarcón, former president of Cuba's National Assembly; Guerrero; Mary-Alice Waters, Socialist Workers Party in U.S.; Ramón Labañino of the Five; Jorge Hernández, director of University of Havana Center for Study of Hemispheric Affairs and United States; and Sandra Ramírez, North America department of Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples.

years ago while working in the leadership of the Union of Young Communists (UJC). Since then she has been reading Pathfinder books and the *Militant*, which “every week carries serious articles about working-class struggles in the United States and questions facing workers in other countries. These publications have been telling the truth in the United States about the Cuban Revolution and our Five Heroes.”

Waters said all three books featured at the meeting “were born as weapons in the fight for the freedom of our comrades,” who were framed up by the U.S. government and imprisoned for more than 16 years for their actions in defense of the Cuban Revolution.

Commenting on the title of the newest Pathfinder book, she said some readers ask, “How can you say the Cuban Five were part of the U.S. working class? They were prisoners.” But as the book itself explains, a significant proportion of the U.S. working class is behind bars or has been at some time in their lives.

*The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class* conveys vividly “the respect and solidarity they extended to their fellow inmates, and the respect and solidarity they earned in return,” Waters said.

What prepared the Five to act with such dignity and steadfast resistance for 16 years behind bars, she said, was “the Cuban Revolution itself” — the proletarian internationalist values “they



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Above, Cuban Five members Gerardo Hernández, Fernando González and René González and family members in front row at Feb. 18 meeting at Havana International Book Fair.

internalized as young people growing up in Cuba.” (See the full text of Waters' presentation on page 8.)

### ‘We were part of U.S. working class’

Labañino said with evident pride that not only while in prison but “before we were arrested, we were part of the U.S. working class. I arrived with no money in my pocket. I did all kinds of work. I sold shoes through a catalog. The best job I could get was driving a van delivering medicines to pharmacies.”

He said *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class* describes how U.S. prisons are “a microcosm” of capitalist society, designed to dehumanize and break the morale of working people.

Labañino gave examples, cited in the book, of solidarity among fellow prisoners in face of those brutal conditions. He drew laughter and applause from the audience with his humorous account of an inmate who, despite his deserved reputation as “the baddest Cuban” in the prison, expressed genuine respect for Labañino as “one of Fidel's five men.”

Labañino explained how all five revolutionaries used the *Militant* and Pathfinder books to educate other prisoners. These publications, by telling the truth about the Five and about the Cuban Revolution, also won them support and protection while in prison.

At the invitation of Pathfinder and José Martí publishers, one of the speakers on the platform was Ricardo Alar-

cón, former president of Cuba's National Assembly, who became one of Cuba's best-known voices in defense of the Cuban Five throughout the 16-year-long campaign that finally won the freedom of the last three of them in December 2014.

Alarcón spoke about the significance of that battle today. Referring to Washington's decision to restore diplomatic ties with Havana, he said, “Now that there is a change in the dynamic between our country and the one that has historically been and remains our principal adversary, I think the case of the Five must not be forgotten as a past battle.”

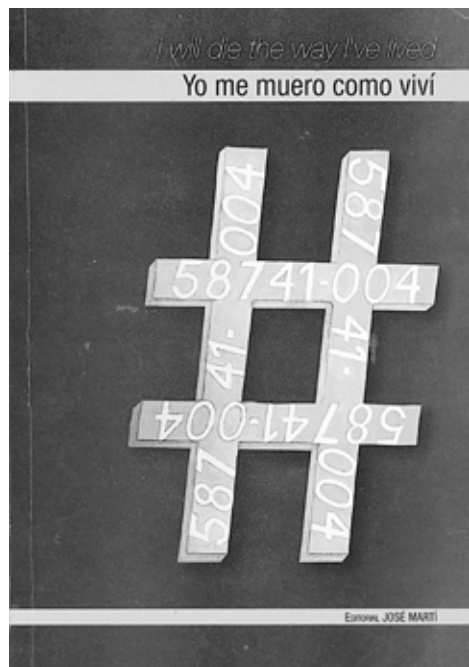
### Books needed today

In face of today's challenges, the Cuban leader said, “we need clarity and firm determination,” and “our compañeros' conduct in prison can serve as an inspiration to all Cubans. That's why I think the publication now of these books is very important.”

Alarcón saluted the Socialist Workers Party for its long history of defense of the Cuban Revolution within the United States, and Pathfinder Press for its many books telling the truth about the revolution.

José Maury, speaking on behalf of the National Bureau of the UJC, stressed the importance of the new books on the Cuban Five for Cuban youth today. They help explain the realities of capitalist so-

Continued on page 9



Cuban editions of *I will die the way I've lived* (published by Editorial José Martí) and *Voices From Prison* (Ciencias Sociales) first published by Pathfinder Press in the United States.





# ‘A powerful indictment of capitalism: how prisons g

The following talk was presented Feb. 18 at an event of 150 people during the Havana International Book Fair launching three books on the Cuban Five, the Cuban Revolution and the U.S. working class. Copyright © 2016 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

Thank you Sandra for your generous introduction.

Before anything else, on behalf of Pathfinder I want to thank the Instituto Cubano del Libro, Editorial Nuevo Milenio, and Editorial José Martí for the publication of these excellent Cuban editions of two Pathfinder titles — *Voces desde la cárcel: Los Cinco Cubanos* [Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five] and the bilingual edition of Antonio Guerrero’s fifteen watercolors, *I will die the way I’ve lived/Yo me muero como viví*.

Nancy Hernández, director of Editorial José Martí, and Juan Ramón Rodríguez, editor of this beautiful presentation of Antonio’s paintings, are here with us today, as are Juan Carlos Santana, director of Nuevo Milenio, and Javier Bertrán, who prepared this edition of *Voces desde la cárcel*.

You will be hearing more about both these publications this afternoon.

I want to express special appreciation to the compañeras and compañeros of ICAP [Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples], starting with Kenia [Serrano] and Fernando [González]; our chairperson Sandra [Ramírez], director of ICAP’s North America department; and Rafaela Valerino, who volunteered her expert editorial skills to work with us in preparing *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class*.

All three books were born as weapons in the fight for the freedom of our comrades known around the world as the Cuban Five. None of them would

have been possible without the collaboration we received from ICAP.



It is a privilege to have such an outstanding panel here today, especially the presence of compañero [Ricardo] Alarcón, whose tireless efforts on behalf of the Five are known to us all, as well as Jorge Hernández from the University of Havana’s Center for the Study of Hemispheric Affairs and the United States, and compañero José Angel Maury, speaking for the National Bureau of the UJC [Union of Young Communists].

And that’s not to mention the honor of Ramón’s [Labañino] and Tony’s [Guerrero] participation, and the presence of Gerardo [Hernández], Fernando, René [González], and many of their family members.

All I can add is please don’t be frightened by the number of occupied seats you see on the platform today. Like you, we all want to hear from Ramón and Tony above all, and the rest of us have promised Sandra we will speak briefly.



*The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class*, Pathfinder’s newest book, grows out of the victory that was registered on December 17, 2014. Even if it feels like years have passed since that day, it was only fourteen short months ago that Gerardo, Ramón, and Antonio heard the prison doors close behind them for the last time.

But the account given by the Five in the pages of this book could not have been known until every one of them was free.

It is also a fact that had we waited longer than last August to sit down together to talk with all five comrades about their lives as part of the US working class, the richness of those years of experience may never have been recorded. At least the vividness of their memories, of the things *they* wanted all of us to know about, would have faded.



Courtesy Gerardo He

Gerardo Hernández, center, at Victorville federal prison, 2006, with prison mates Brasco, Burks, Pope. “Their time among ordinary working-class people turned out to be a salvation, a source of strength and protection” for the Five, Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters said at Feb. 18 meeting. “It multiplied many times over the power of the example they set and its reach in the U.S. working class.”

We’ve been asked several times, who is the author of this book? The answer, quite simply, is “The Cuban Five” themselves. This is *their* story. And I can assure everyone, you will be surprised by many of the things you will learn in these pages.

Not the least important part of the book is the more than forty photographs, many of them provided by Gerardo,

Ramón, and one of René’s prison mates. Countless readers have expressed their amazement at what the photos reveal. You will see Gerardo, Ramón, and René with their fellow prisoners in various activities — from a game of handball, to Gerardo speaking about the historical links between Cuba and Mexico at a Cinco de Mayo celebration organized by some of his Mexican brothers.

## Students in Matanzas, Cuba, eager

### BY MARTÍN KOPPEL AND RÓGER CALERO

MATANZAS, Cuba — A packed auditorium of nearly 200 students and faculty members heard a presentation here of Pathfinder’s *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class*. The Feb. 25 meeting was held at the Camilo Cienfuegos University of Matanzas, some 60 miles east of Havana.

The featured speakers were Fernando González, one of the Cuban Five and vice president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), and Pathfinder president and Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters. They were introduced by Sandra Ramírez, North America director of ICAP. Accompanying them on the platform were university vice rector Roberto Vizcón and Teresa Rubio, ICAP delegate for Matanzas province.

The students listened intently as both speakers explained that the book — as González put it — “is not about anecdotes of prison life, but about the class character of the U.S. ‘justice’ system and who those who end up in prison really are.”

González emphasized that the big majority of those behind bars in the United States “are not part of what Marx called the lumpenproletariat,” that is degraded, anti-social petty-criminal elements found in most capitalist cities. Yes, he said, there are some who are, but “the majority are not people with a criminal mentality.” They are “workers, people of modest resources and low incomes.”

That is why, he said, citing Ramón Labañino’s words highlighted on the book’s cover, “it’s the poor who face the savagery of the U.S. ‘justice’ system.”

During the discussion period, Edith González, dean of the school of social sciences and humanities, told the audience how, more than 20 years ago, she was part of a team of volunteers who helped make it possible for Pathfinder to publish a new edition of *Lenin’s Final Fight* in Spanish by checking the existing Spanish translations against the original Russian text of the speeches and writings of V.I. Lenin. She and the other volunteers were young professors at the University of Matanzas who had studied in the Soviet Union and were fluent in Russian. She described how proud they all were of contributing to get the book out, which remains one of the most sought-after titles every year at the Havana book fair.

A student asked about the political work that Socialist Workers Party members carry out in the United States, commenting that it must be very difficult. Waters replied that while that was a common perception outside the United States, “the work of communists is *not* more difficult in the United States than in Cuba or other countries. We face the same enemy as you — the imperialist rulers and their capitalist system. We’re in the same struggle, in the same trench.”

At the end of the program, the visiting team of communist workers from the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States, who had come to Cuba to help introduce Pathfinder books to those attending the fair, was swamped by students seeking literature on revolutionary politics. Within minutes, all 106 Pathfinder books and dozens of copies of the *Militant* they had brought were sold out.

## For further reading ...

**“It’s the poor who face the savagery of the US ‘justice’ system”**

*The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class*

**\$15**

**“I will die the way I’ve lived”**

*15 watercolors by Antonio Guerrero with text by Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino*

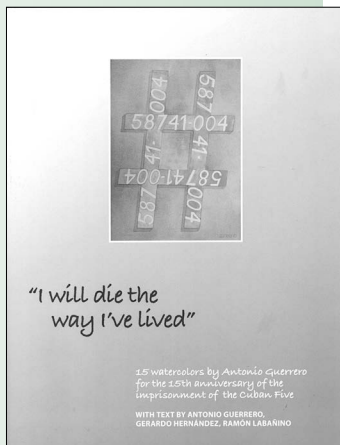
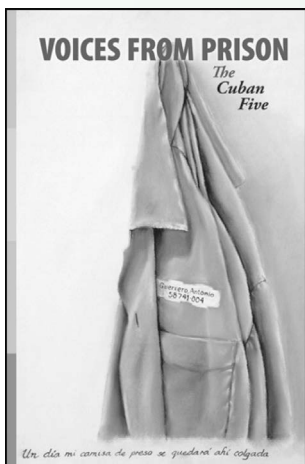
**\$7**

**Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five**

Here three who have known them behind bars speak out. Also accounts of prison life and resistance by Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Elizabeth Palmeiro and Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda. **\$7**

See distributors on page 10 or visit:

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# 'grind up human beings, serve rulers' class interests'

And I'm going to take advantage of the opportunity to beg Tony and Fernando — René has already complied — to somehow find the time to search their boxes in storage for similar photos of *their* years in prison, so we can incorporate them in the next printing.



The first response to the book's title from a number of readers, in both the US and Cuba, has been to think, and sometimes ask, "How can you say the Cuban Five were part of the US working class? They were prisoners."

The title is not meant to be provocative. But it highlights something about the social relations of capitalism in the United States that many both there and around the world are unaware of. The US is the country with the highest incarceration rate in the world. *Yes, the highest on earth.*

Five percent of the adult male population in the US — and 17 percent of adult males who are Black — are currently in prison, or have been at some time in their lives. We're talking about millions and millions of human beings.

One of the useful things you will find in the book is a table that summarizes these and a few other facts about class "justice" in the US.

But in US government statistics you won't find the 2.2 million men and women behind bars today accounted for as part of the labor force. Prison-

ers are not included in the ranks of the unemployed, nor are they counted as employed — even though federal prisoners are obliged to work, and many are "employed," earning as little as 23 cents an hour, in the prison factories the five comrades talk about in the interview.

One of the photos in *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class* is of Gerardo with the Federal Prisons Industries (UNICOR) factory behind him.



That brings me to the second point I want to emphasize about the account given us by our five compañeros: the respect and solidarity they extended to their fellow inmates, and the respect and solidarity they earned in return. I think it is summed up well in the words of Ramón that are highlighted on the book's cover: "It's the poor who face the savagery of the US 'justice' system."

This is not what anyone would call a "prison" book. It doesn't look backward. It doesn't look inward. It doesn't dwell on the hardships of incarceration or the indignities and violence that mark prison life. *It's a book about the class struggle in the US.* It is a powerful indictment of *capitalism* and the way it uses its prison system to protect its class interests, the way it grinds up human beings.

I just mentioned how prisoners disappear in Washington's statistics on unemployed workers — and the many mil-



AP Photo/Alan Diaz

**Job fair, Sunrise, Florida, June 2015. Millions of unemployed and underemployed inside and out of prison are an "absolute waste of humanity's productive possibilities," says Waters, "another horrendous product of property relations of the system Fidel rightly calls 'dog eat dog.'"**

lions more who are *underemployed*. But we should always remind ourselves that the government's lying manipulation of figures is really something best thought of as petty larceny. The capital crime is to society. It's the absolute waste of humanity's productive possibilities — another horrendous product of the property relations of the system Fidel rightly calls "dog eat dog."

There is no romanticism in this book about prison life. Gerardo describes it as a microcosm of the capitalist society that has spawned those institutions of retribution and punishment. A system that cannot be reformed. But what we see through the eyes of our five comrades is *not a suffering class*. The portrait is one of resilience and working-class solidarity.

**Continued on page 10**

## New books on the Cuban Five

**Continued from page 7**

ciety that are "unknown to the new generations of Cubans," he said. They show the example of the Five Heroes as the kind of human beings "that have been produced by our revolution."

Jorge Hernández, author of the preface to the new Cuban edition in Spanish of *Voices From Prison: The Cuban Five*, was also on the panel. The book includes the content of the original Pathfinder edition along with nine pages of photos of the December 2014 return to Cuba by Hernández, Labañino, and Guerrero, plus Hernández's February 2015 speech when the Five were decorated as Heroes of the Republic of Cuba.

Jorge Hernández, who is the director of the University of Havana's Center for the Study of Hemispheric Affairs and the United States, read from the new preface, commenting on the significance of the book. Capturing what the example of the Five Heroes represent for Cubans today, he concluded with a quote from Fidel Castro, "Cuban revolutionaries have made mistakes. But the one mistake they will not make is to become traitors."

Guerrero concluded the program. He spoke about the 17 months the Five spent in the "hole" at the Miami federal prison, the time period after their arrest that is conveyed in his collection of watercolors, *I will die the way I've lived*. The beautiful design of the new bilingual Cuban edition by Editorial José Martí vividly reproduces Guerrero's paintings.

### What it means to be a revolutionary

"These three books we are presenting are very useful for us today," Guerrero said. He stressed that they are not about the Five personally, but should be read by young people for their message: "what it means to be ready to die for what you believe in, by doing through our everyday actions what is incumbent for each of us to do."

The meeting concluded with several comments from the audience, a performance by a group of visiting Argentine musicians who were involved in their country in the campaign to free the Cuban Five, and a sale of the featured books.

Three days earlier, the Cuban Five spoke at presentations of two other Spanish-language books prominently featured at the Havana book fair. One was the Ciencias Sociales edition of *What Lies Across the Water: The Real Story of the Cuban Five* by Canadian author Stephen Kimber, with a preface by René González.

The other was the launching of the Cuban edition of *Redeeming the Past: My Journey from Freedom Fighter to Healer* by Michael Lapsley, an Anglican priest in South Africa. In the course of his activity in the movement to overturn the white-supremacist apartheid regime in South Africa, Lapsley lost both hands and was blinded in one eye in a letter-bomb explosion in 1990. The book was published by Editorial Caminos, publishing house of the Havana-based Martin Luther King Center.

Gerardo Hernández, who wrote the preface to this edition, told the audience how Lapsley, an outspoken defender of the Cuban Five, visited him 10 times in maximum-security prisons in California. As a cleric he was one of the few visitors Hernández was allowed to receive.

In his remarks, Lapsley noted that Hernández was one of the hundreds of thousands of Cuban internationalist combatants who, between 1976 and 1991, helped defend Angola's sovereignty, defeat invasions of Angola by the South African army, and win the independence of Namibia, contributing to the end of the apartheid regime itself. "On the African continent, we will always be grateful for what Cuba did," Lapsley said.

## to learn about class politics in US



Militant/Jacob Perasso

**Gerardo González, one of Cuban Five, speaks at Feb. 25 meeting at University of Matanzas on Pathfinder's Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class. From left: González; Mary-Alice Waters, Socialist Workers Party and editor of book; and Vice Rector Roberto Vizcón. Also on the panel were Teresa Rubio, Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples; and Sandra Ramírez, also from ICAP.**



Militant/Jacob Perasso

**Discussion period at Matanzas meeting. "The work of communists is not more difficult in the United States than in Cuba or other countries," said Mary-Alice Waters. The Socialist Workers Party faces "the same enemies as you — the imperialist rulers and the capitalist system. We're in the same struggle, in the same trench."**



# US prisons serve rulers' interests

Continued from page 9  
ity. We see *a resisting class*.

It's a portrait drawn without an ounce of exaggeration. It is one that millions of US working people will identify with immediately. They will see themselves, their families and loved ones, their friends, neighbors, and workmates as part of the world our five comrades portray with objectivity, insight, and humor. They will understand that world better after reading this book.

It is René who sums up one of the facts that will come as a surprise to many of you here when he says, "All of us were able to do our time without any problems from officers or other prisoners." And that is a tribute above all to the class solidarity each of the Five extended to those with whom they shared so many years of their lives.



That brings me to my third and final point.

On September 12, 1998, our compañeros were brutally and without notice forced into the ranks of this section of the US working class behind bars. What was it that prepared them to act with such dignity and resist



Courtesy Gerardo Hernández  
**Gerardo Hernández in front of Federal Prison Industries factory, Lompoc, California, 2003. Federal prisoners are required to work, paid as little as 23 cents an hour.**

with such steadfastness for the next sixteen years?

There is no better way to explain it than in Tony's words during an exchange with students last year at CU-JAE [the main engineering and science university in Havana]. It is one of the pieces included in the new book.

"Anyone can write a poem," Antonio told the students. "To spend seventeen months in the hole, however, and sixteen years in prison and create paintings that don't contain a shred of hatred . . . that's a product of the way we were educated as revolutionaries. It's something we were able to achieve thanks to the revolution."

What equipped our comrades for that day in September was the Cuban Revolution itself — the dignity learned from our people, as Tony wrote. What prepared them was the education and values (the proletarian internationalist education and values, I would say) that they internalized as young people growing up in Cuba.

The prisons of the ruling classes are not unknown territory for working people fighting to defend our interests. There is ample proof of that throughout history, including the history of the Cuban people. How revolutionists, communists, conduct themselves in prison, however, is each time a test anew. And our five brothers have given us an example worthy of study and emulation by current and future generations.

In Cuba, "it's normal for people to help each other, to cooperate with each other," Ramón says. "It's not a question of a 'good policy.' It's simply a fact." It's the consequence of a revolution that overturned the cutthroat economic and social order of capitalism, and of a leadership that for decades has maintained that trajectory against all odds.

That is what Gerardo, Ramón, Antonio, Fernando, and René brought with them into their lives within the US working class. And it is why this is as much a book about Cuba's victorious socialist revolution as it is about the

## US capitalist 'justice' . . . some facts

### World's jailer-in-chief

- World's highest incarceration rate: US has 4.4% of world population but 22% of world's prisoners.
- Some 7 million people (1 in 35 adults) are today in federal or state prison, local jails, or on parole or probation.
- 5 percent of adult males and 17 percent of adult males who are Black are or have been behind bars.

### 'Plea bargains' and the right to a trial

- 97% of federal and 94% of state convictions in criminal cases result from the accused pleading guilty to charges horse traded by prosecutors and defendants' lawyers.
- In federal cases in 2003, defendants insisting on their right to a trial got sentences averaging nearly three times longer than those taking a "plea bargain" (12.5 years vs. 4.5 years).

### Life sentences, death row, and the 'hole'

- More than 10 percent of US prisoners are serving life sentences, nearly a third life without parole.
- Some 1 in 20 state and federal inmates are in the "hole," solitary confinement, or other punishment cells (2005).
- 2,984 people are on death row (2015).

### Class, race, and incarceration

- The vast majority of those behind bars are from the working class. Some 40% are Black.
- 1 in 10 men in their 30s who are Black is in jail or prison any given day.

From *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class*

class struggle in the United States.

When our comrades were first imprisoned, there were many around the world who feared for their safety on the grounds that they were being thrown in with what the ruling class calls "common criminals." The US judicial system does not recognize a category others call "political prisoners."

As you will read in these pages, that fear turned out to be unfounded. To the contrary, the fact that our comrades served their time among ordinary working-class people turned out to be a salvation, a source of strength and protection for them. It multiplied many times over the power of the example they set and its reach in the US working class.

Our five comrades have written a new chapter in the history of intertwined revolutionary struggle in our two countries, a new chapter in the open book we know as "Cuba and the Coming American Revolution." For

that we will long be able to thank them.



I will end by bringing you a very special greeting from yet another Hero of the Republic of Cuba, José Ramón Fernández [who led the principal column that defeated the U.S.-organized invasion at the Bay of Pigs in 1961], Compañero Fernández, who is unable to be with us here today due to commitments related to his work, asked me to transmit the following message to this gathering:

Dear Friend Mary-Alice,

When you present the book, please ask the Five to excuse me for not being there. I stood shoulder to shoulder with them and their families during the entire period of their imprisonment. I have great respect and admiration for their firmness, for the stoicism with which they served their sentences, all the while knowing how unjust those sentences were.

I also ask that, during the presentation, you convey to them my fraternal embrace for their patriotism.

I'm sure that all of us here today can add our voices to that message of respect and admiration from one of the great soldiers and historic leaders of the Cuban Revolution.

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## Women and the Cuban Revolution

Hear:

**Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) leaders**

**Sat. March 19**

**Reception 6:30 p.m.  
Program 7 - 9 p.m.**

1199SEIU Auditorium  
310 W. 43rd St.  
New York City  
For more info: 917-887-8710  
or 212-926-5757



# No miner has to die, in Russia or US!

*The following statement was issued March 1 by Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president.*

No miner has to die! That's the response workers should give to the claim by Russian officials that the death of 36 coal miners in Vorkuta last week-end was a "natural disaster." It's the same lie we've heard time and again from the mine bosses and their government mouthpieces around the world — from Soma, Turkey, where more than 300 died in the Eynez mine in 2014, to coalfields across the United States.

Statements by relatives of Vorkuta miners and independent union leaders that the coal bosses tampered with methane detectors and pressured them to work in spite of high levels of the deadly gas are all too familiar. In their drive for profits, the mine owners put production ahead of human life, cutting corners on safety for the sake of their bottom line. And the same thing is true at construction sites, in steel mills, oil refineries, on the railroad and in other jobs where working people face speedup and the bosses' disdain for our life and limb.

As a longtime member of the United Mine Workers of America, having worked in mines in Ala-

bama, Colorado, Utah and West Virginia, I know firsthand that the fight for stronger unions is a life-and-death question. We need to organize, unionize and fight for workers' control of safety on the job — including exercising the right to stop work whenever we face unsafe conditions.

On behalf of the Socialist Workers Party, I extend a hand of solidarity to our brothers and sisters in Vorkuta. Your fight is our fight. What happens in one country affects the conditions we all face.

Sharpening competition among the mine bosses and other capitalists, a result of the international crisis of trade and production, guarantees they will press harder in their offensive against the working class. Conditions in the mines, in Russia and worldwide, will continue to deteriorate unless our class organizes to stop them.

The disaster in Vorkuta, and the Russian government's cover-up for the bosses' profit drive, highlight the need for workers power. As we organize independent working-class struggles to defend ourselves, we can gain the experience, confidence and class-consciousness needed to lead the fight to overturn the dictatorship of capital and open the road to build a society based on human solidarity — where no worker has to die on the job.

## US, Moscow broker shaky Syria cease-fire

**Continued from front page**

war in Syria, allowing it to restore some stability to defend its imperialist interests in the oil-rich region. The arrangement would also allow Washington and Moscow to organize a coordinated campaign targeting Islamic State, a brutal jihadist current that has controlled extensive areas of Syria and Iraq since 2014. The Pentagon announced it is working with Baghdad to organize to drive Islamic State out of the Iraqi city of Mosul.

In September Moscow and Tehran, with Washington's acceptance, reinforced their ally Assad with heavy Russian bombing and Iranian ground troops. Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah fighters were already on the ground there. As a result, Assad regained control of much of western Syria, at the cost of massive death and destruction in opposition-held areas.

Hostilities began in Syria in 2011 when Assad responded to mass popular protests against his rule, modeled on the "Arab Spring" mobilizations in Egypt and Tunisia, with murderous bombings and sieges. An array of opposition forces — from former members of Assad's Baathist government to leaders of the protest movement and of Islamist currents — formed armed groups to fight for his overthrow, getting funding from Washington, Ankara and Riyadh.

Millions of Syrians are in dire straits. Recent heavy Russian bombing around Aleppo has displaced tens of thousands, many of whom are massed at the Turkish border seeking entry. In the Syrian border town of Azaz, there are almost 50,000 families receiving no food or other humanitarian aid. To date, the Turkish government has accepted 2.6 million Syrian refugees.

While Washington and Moscow are pushing to drive the deal through, many U.S. government allies consider themselves weakened by the likely outcome, including rulers in Turkey, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf monarchies and Israel. Riyadh sent fighter jets to Turkey's Incirlik Air Base Feb. 14 and Turkish troops joined military exercises in Saudi Arabia.

Secretary of State John Kerry said Feb. 25 that Tehran has been pulling some troops out of Syria as part of the deal. Hezbollah forces remain in place.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Feb. 28 he welcomes the cease-fire, but called for "a halt to Iran's aggression toward Israel from Syrian territory." He said Israel would "not agree to the supply of advanced weaponry to Hezbollah from Syria and Lebanon" and "will not agree to the creation of a second terror front on the Golan Heights," which Israel seized from Syria in 1967.

The Washington-Moscow brokered truce excludes any letup in attacks on Islamic State and al-Nusra Front, an al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria. Some opposition

groups said that since the cease-fire began they have been bombed by Damascus and Moscow. They also charged the government with delaying aid deliveries.

However, the U.S. State Department played down such reports March 1, saying it had received no reports of "significant" violations.

The YPG has expanded areas they control near the Turkish border with the aim of connecting the eastern and western Kurdish areas in northern Syria.

Imperialist-imposed agreements setting their "spheres of influence" after World Wars I and II denied Kurds a homeland. They were divided as new borders were drawn to create modern Syria, Iraq, Iran and Turkey. Ankara is determined to prevent a Kurdish-controlled state in Syria along Turkey's border, fearing it would further fuel independence sentiments among some 15 million Turkish Kurds.

The government of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launched a war against the population in the country's majority-Kurdish southeast last summer in the name of fighting the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), an organization Ankara labels as "terrorist." He sent 10,000 police and troops to the area and conducted airstrikes that have killed hundreds and displaced several hundred thousand.

### Washington plans Iraq drive against Islamic State

Washington is looking at stepping up action on the Iraqi front in its campaign against Islamic State — seeking to take back Mosul, the largest city in IS's "caliphate." Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces captured Shadadi in northeastern Syria Feb. 19, cutting the reactionary jihadists' supply route to Mosul.

"Momentum is now on our side," Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said in a Feb. 29 press briefing at the Pentagon, joined by Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford. He pointed to the taking of Ramadi last December, the fall of Shadadi and Washington's success in setting the "cessation" in Syria.

"The long fight by Iraqi security forces to take back Ramadi," the *Times* reported March 1, "offers a preview of the battle to come over Mosul."

"As difficult as that battle was," the *Times* said, "the fight for Mosul will be much harder."

Dunford said Washington will have to step up its military involvement. This means, the *Times* said, American attack helicopters would fly close cover for some 30,000 Iraqi troops.

Pentagon sources quoted by the *Times* said combatants at Mosul would include heavy participation by Iraqi Kurdish forces. Gen. Talib al-Kinani, commander of Baghdad's Counter Terrorism Service, said Iraqi troop commanders have already been sent to areas next to Kurdish-controlled territory for final planning.

## Defend abortion rights

**Continued from front page**  
interests of all working people.

The right to decide whether or when to bear children is fundamental to a woman's right to control her own life and win full social, economic and political equality. It is critical to break down divisions fostered by the employers and their government and to unite the working class.

The case before the Supreme Court March 2 — *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* — challenges a reactionary Texas law that imposes unnecessary and onerous restrictions on abortion providers that have forced many clinics throughout the state to close. If the high court upholds these restrictions only 10 abortion providers will remain open there.

Whether and when to have an abortion must be the decision of *women* — not the government, a doctor, a relative or anyone else. It's a question of equal rights for women, building on the conquests won through the Second American Revolution and codified in the "equal protection of the laws" guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

This fight is being taken up by women and the working class worldwide. Capitalist rulers from Germany to Ireland to much of the semicolonial world either restrict or outright bar women's right to abortion.

Ever since the new rise of the fight for women's rights in the 1970s and the U.S. Supreme Court decision decriminalizing abortion in 1973, state and federal government officials have imposed increasingly onerous restrictions on its availability — denial of Medicaid and insurance coverage, shortening the time to seek an abortion, requiring parental consent, mandatory counseling and waiting periods, invasive and demanding ultrasound requirements, and, like in Texas, demands that clinics meet hospital-like building standards — all of which hit working-class women and those in rural areas the hardest.

Working people are paying the price for the refusal of labor officials and the most prominent women's rights organizations over many years to mobilize a nationwide campaign of public action to bring to bear the broad support that exists for women's right to choose abortion. Instead, they say raising the issue stirs things up and tell people to elect and rely on "pro-choice" capitalist politicians.

More workers today are looking for ways to fight to defend their jobs, lives and living conditions. Fast-food workers are protesting for \$15 and a union. Street actions against police brutality — from Salt Lake City to Council, Idaho — have forced the propertied rulers to begin to rein in their cops. Women fighting to defend the right to an abortion will find many allies willing to stand and march with them.

Join us in this fight!

### Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer



*"The phenomenon of women's participation in the revolution is a revolution within another revolution. If I were asked what is the most revolutionary thing the revolution is doing, I would answer that it is precisely this — the revolution that is occurring among the women of our country."*

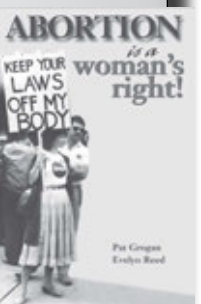
— **Fidel Castro, December 9, 1966**

**\$20. Also in Spanish, Greek**

### Abortion Is a Woman's Right! by Pat Grogan

*Abortion is a basic human right. The right of women to control their own bodies — which is what is at stake in the fight over legal abortion — is an elementary precondition for the liberation of women from the oppression they suffer as a sex. All working people have a big stake in answering the attacks on abortion rights.*

**\$6. Also in Spanish**



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